

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are currently pending. The Applicant is currently amending claims 1, 3, 5, 13, 15, 23, and 24. Claim 1 is being amended to place the steps into present tense (i.e., "determine" is amended to "determining") and to add the word "and" between elements. Claims 3, 13, and 23 are being amended to identify the second sub-step of (b) as (ii) rather than (i). Claims 5, 15, and 24 are being amended to depend upon previous claims that comprise both steps (a) and (b). No new matter was introduced by way of the amendments or new claims.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-23 and 25-27.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner stated that "[the original c]laim 24 recited '...using routines (a) and (b) of claims 21 and 22 ...' which is indefinite since routines (a) and (b) are recited in claims 22 and 23, respectively" (*Office Action*, p. 2). The Applicants are amending claim 24 to depend upon claim 23 which depends upon claim 22. The Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-23 and 25-27 and wishes the Examiner happy holidays. With the correction to claim 24, the Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, Applicants' undersigned representative may be reached at the number provided.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-4561.

Respectfully submitted,
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